

CENTER FOR DISABILITY ACCESS
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Samuel Love,

Plaintiff,

v.

O'Reilly Auto Enterprises, LLC, a
Delaware Limited Liability
Company; and Does 1-10,

Defendants.

Case No.

**Complaint For Damages And
Injunctive Relief For Violations
Of: American's With Disabilities
Act; Unruh Civil Rights Act**

Plaintiff Samuel Love complains of O'Reilly Auto Enterprises, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company; and Does 1-10 ("Defendants"), and alleges as follows:

PARTIES:

1. Plaintiff is a California resident with physical disabilities. He is substantially limited in his ability to walk. He is a paraplegic who uses a wheelchair for mobility.

2. Defendant O'Reilly Auto Enterprises, LLC owned O'Reilly Auto Parts located at or about 2640 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, California, in June

1 2019.

2 3. Defendant O'Reilly Auto Enterprises, LLC owns O'Reilly Auto Parts
3 ("Store") located at or about 2640 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, California,
4 currently.

5 4. Plaintiff does not know the true names of Defendants, their business
6 capacities, their ownership connection to the property and business, or their
7 relative responsibilities in causing the access violations herein complained of,
8 and alleges a joint venture and common enterprise by all such Defendants.
9 Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the Defendants herein,
10 including Does 1 through 10, inclusive, is responsible in some capacity for the
11 events herein alleged, or is a necessary party for obtaining appropriate relief.
12 Plaintiff will seek leave to amend when the true names, capacities,
13 connections, and responsibilities of the Defendants and Does 1 through 10,
14 inclusive, are ascertained.

15
16 **JURISDICTION & VENUE:**

17 5. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the action pursuant to 28
18 U.S.C. § 1331 and § 1343(a)(3) & (a)(4) for violations of the Americans with
19 Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.

20 6. Pursuant to supplemental jurisdiction, an attendant and related cause
21 of action, arising from the same nucleus of operative facts and arising out of
22 the same transactions, is also brought under California's Unruh Civil Rights
23 Act, which act expressly incorporates the Americans with Disabilities Act.

24 7. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and is
25 founded on the fact that the real property which is the subject of this action is
26 located in this district and that Plaintiff's cause of action arose in this district.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS:

8. Plaintiff went to the Store in June 2019 with the intention to avail himself of its goods and services and to assess the business for compliance with the disability access laws.

9. The Store is a facility open to the public, a place of public accommodation, and a business establishment.

10. The Store has a sales counter where it handles its transactions with customers.

11. Unfortunately, on the date of the plaintiff's visit, the defendants failed to provide an accessible sales counter. While there was a lowered sales counter in the Store, and even though plaintiff explicitly asked to be helped at the lowered counter near the front of the Store, plaintiff's request was denied. The plaintiff was forced to conduct his transaction at the higher sales counter, which was not accessible to him.

12. Plaintiff personally encountered this barrier.

13. By failing to provide accessible facilities, the defendants denied the plaintiff full and equal access.

14. The lack of accessible facilities created difficulty and discomfort for the Plaintiff.

15. The defendants have failed to maintain in working and useable conditions those features required to provide ready access to persons with disabilities.

16. The barriers identified above are easily removed without much difficulty or expense. They are the types of barriers identified by the Department of Justice as presumably readily achievable to remove and, in fact, these barriers are readily achievable to remove. Moreover, there are numerous alternative accommodations that could be made to provide a greater level of access if complete removal were not achievable.

1 17. Plaintiff will return to the Store to avail himself of its items and to
2 determine compliance with the disability access laws once it is represented to
3 him that the Store and its facilities are accessible. Plaintiff is currently deterred
4 from doing so because of his knowledge of the existing barriers and his
5 uncertainty about the existence of yet other barriers on the site. If the barriers
6 are not removed, the plaintiff will face unlawful and discriminatory barriers
7 again.

8 18. Given the obvious and blatant nature of the barriers and violations
9 alleged herein, the plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that there are
10 other violations and barriers on the site that relate to his disability. Plaintiff will
11 amend the complaint, to provide proper notice regarding the scope of this
12 lawsuit, once he conducts a site inspection. However, please be on notice that
13 the plaintiff seeks to have all barriers related to his disability remedied. See
14 *Doran v. 7-11*, 524 F.3d 1034 (9th Cir. 2008) (holding that once a plaintiff
15 encounters one barrier at a site, he can sue to have all barriers that relate to his
16 disability removed regardless of whether he personally encountered them).

17
18 **I. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATION OF THE AMERICANS**
19 **WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990** (On behalf of Plaintiff and against all
20 Defendants.) (42 U.S.C. section 12101, et seq.)

21 19. Plaintiff re-pleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth
22 again herein, the allegations contained in all prior paragraphs of this
23 complaint.

24 20. Under the ADA, it is an act of discrimination to fail to ensure that the
25 privileges, advantages, accommodations, facilities, goods and services of any
26 place of public accommodation is offered on a full and equal basis by anyone
27 who owns, leases, or operates a place of public accommodation. See 42 U.S.C.
28 § 12182(a). Discrimination is defined, inter alia, as follows:

- a. A failure to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the accommodation would work a fundamental alteration of those services and facilities. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii).
- b. A failure to remove architectural barriers where such removal is readily achievable. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv). Barriers are defined by reference to the ADA Standards.
- c. A failure to make alterations in such a manner that, to the maximum extent feasible, the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs or to ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered area, are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2).

21. When a business provides facilities such as a sales or transaction counter, it must provide an accessible sales or transaction counter.

22. Here, accessible sales counters were not provided to plaintiff on the day of his visit.

23. The Safe Harbor provisions of the 2010 Standards are not applicable here because the conditions challenged in this lawsuit do not comply with the 1991 Standards.

24. A public accommodation must maintain in operable working condition those features of its facilities and equipment that are required to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. 28 C.F.R. § 36.211(a).

25. Here, the failure to ensure that the accessible facilities were available

1 and ready to be used by the plaintiff is a violation of the law.

2
3 **II. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION: VIOLATION OF THE UNRUH CIVIL**
4 **RIGHTS ACT** (On behalf of Plaintiff and against all Defendants.) (Cal. Civ.
5 Code § 51-53.)

6 26. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth
7 again herein, the allegations contained in all prior paragraphs of this
8 complaint. The Unruh Civil Rights Act (“Unruh Act”) guarantees, inter alia,
9 that persons with disabilities are entitled to full and equal accommodations,
10 advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishment of
11 every kind whatsoever within the jurisdiction of the State of California. Cal.
12 Civ. Code § 51(b).

13 27. The Unruh Act provides that a violation of the ADA is a violation of the
14 Unruh Act. Cal. Civ. Code, § 51(f).

15 28. Defendants’ acts and omissions, as herein alleged, have violated the
16 Unruh Act by, inter alia, denying, or aiding, or inciting the denial of, Plaintiff’s
17 rights to full and equal use of the accommodations, advantages, facilities,
18 privileges, or services offered.

19 29. Because the violation of the Unruh Civil Rights Act resulted in difficulty,
20 discomfort or embarrassment for the plaintiff, the defendants are also each
21 responsible for statutory damages, i.e., a civil penalty. (Civ. Code § 55.56(a)-
22 (c).)

23
24 **PRAYER:**

25 Wherefore, Plaintiff prays that this Court award damages and provide
26 relief as follows:

27 1. For injunctive relief, compelling Defendants to comply with the
28 Americans with Disabilities Act and the Unruh Civil Rights Act. Note: the

1 plaintiff is not invoking section 55 of the California Civil Code and is not
2 seeking injunctive relief under the Disabled Persons Act at all.

3 2. Damages under the Unruh Civil Rights Act, which provides for actual
4 damages and a statutory minimum of \$4,000 for each offense.

5 3. Reasonable attorney fees, litigation expenses and costs of suit, pursuant
6 to 42 U.S.C. § 12205; and Cal. Civ. Code §§ 52.

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8 Dated: July 5, 2019

CENTER FOR DISABILITY ACCESS

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10 By: 

11 _____
12 Amanda Seabock, Esq.
13 Attorney for plaintiff
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